

MARVEL
COMICS

AT LAST...

A MADMAN TO MATCH THE FURY OF

RAVAGE

2099

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MAR

UK 95p

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



**WHO
IS HE?**

DIRECT EDITION



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**WHAT
IS HE?**

FROM THE JOURNAL OF
DOCTOR RUDOLF MENKEL...

The truth of what humans are
is unpalatable, but after
studying **THE BEAST**, I am
left in no doubt,

Unfashionable as it may be
to say, *Homo Sapiens* un-
tamed is a savage, cruel
and cunning hunter,

A sadistic predator with a **NEED**
to bring down and torture
his prey.

He is a species that gains psychic
NOURISHMENT from the pain and fear
of its victim. To doubt this is to
DENY the whole of human history.

GRAAOWWWLL

Torture and serial killing
are **NOT** deviations--
they are the **NORM** of the
human condition. Funda-
mental to what we are.

But only a certain kind of
human has the strength and
HONESTY to acknowledge,
may revel in, our splendid
birthright.

Such a creature
can be seen as
a **THROWBACK**
to purer and
more truthful
times.

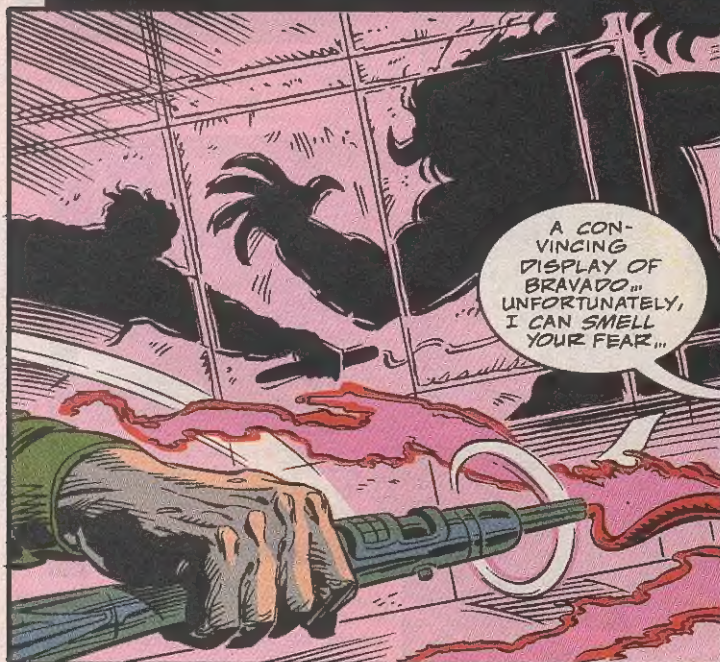
The Throwback chooses his victim well... fit and strong, ready to put up a good fight.

A lion doesn't taint his claws on a mouse. He brings down the wildebeeste.

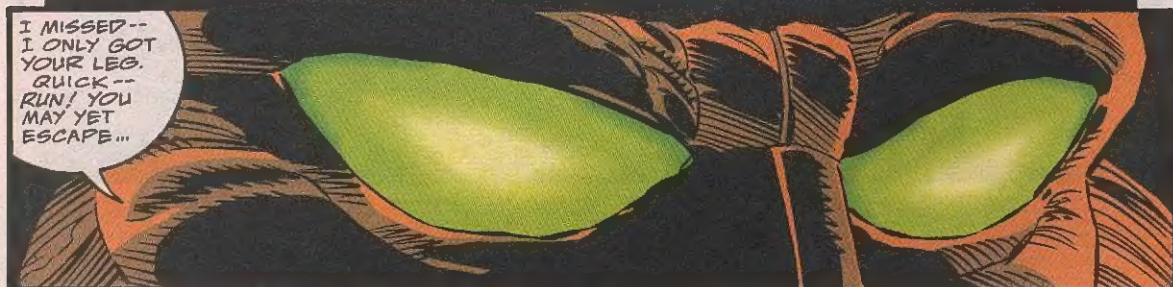


THESE AUTO-CHAKS ARE ON MAX DENSITY AND VELOCITY...!

I'M WARNING YOU... STAY BACK OR DIE! YOUR CHOICE, FREAK!



A CONVINCING DISPLAY OF BRAVADO... UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN SMELL YOUR FEAR...



WHAT HAVE I EVER DONE TO
YOU? WHAT'S MY CRIME?

YOUR CRIME, MY
FRIEND, IS BEING
THE RIGHT KIND
OF PREY...
NOW GO!

I'LL GIVE YOU
A HUNDRED METERS
START--THROWBACK
LIKES IT WHEN HIS
VICTIM RUNS!

PAT MILLS &
TONY SKINNER
-WRITERS-
GRANT MIEHM
-PENCILER-
KEITH WILLIAMS
-INKER-
PHIL FELIX
-LETTERER-
GINA GOING
-COLORIST-
JOEY CAVALIERI
-EDITOR-
TOM DEFALCO
-EDITOR IN CHIEF-

MARK OF THE BEAST

SHOCKING! THAT'S THE
THIRD PUBLIC EYE
SUBSCRIBER THE BEAST
HAS SLAUGHTERED
THIS WEEK...

WHY CAN'T HE PICK ON DECEDS...
OR MOVE TO ANOTHER PRECINCT?

ANY IDEAS, JAKE?

CHIEF, I'M
A WEAPONS
SPECIALIST, NOT
A DETECTIVE.

I KNOW
YOU'RE A WEAPONS
SPECIALIST, JAKE.*
I PAY YOUR WAGE
CHECK. WHAT I'M
ASKING IS--HAVE
YOU GOT ANY HANDLE
ON WHO THIS GUY
MIGHT BE?

*HE'S ALSO
JAKE GALLOWES
A.K.A. THE PUNISHER
2099!--JOEY

I KNOW THE BEAST, ALL RIGHT...
DOOM CALLED HIM RAVAGE... WE
WORKED TOGETHER AGAINST
AVATARR
SAVING SKY
CITY.

I WAS
A FOOL
TO TRUST
HIM...

IF EVER WE MEET AGAIN,
I'LL LISTEN TO NO
ARGUMENT. I'LL BLOW
RAVAGE AWAY!

LIKE I SAID,
CHIEF... I'M A
HARDWARE MAN.
GET YOUR GRUNTS
TO TRACK THIS
ANIMAL DOWN
AND I'LL HAPPILY
SHRED HIM.



BUT HELA...
TIANA... I SWEAR
IT WASN'T
ME...!

PAUL-PHILIP
RAVAGE CEO

FOR SHOCK'S SAKE, PAUL-PHILIP,
DON'T YOU EVER STOP LYING?

IT'S BEEN ON
EVERY HOLO-
STATION IN
NEW YORK!

AND YOU HAD THE
TEMERITY TO LECTURE
ME ON RIGHT AND WRONG
... AND CHOOSING THE
RIGHT SIDE!

I SHOULD
HAVE SLICED YOU
IN TWO WHEN I
HAD THE
CHANCE!

MAYBE I SHOULD DO IT
NOW AND SAVE SOME
INNOCENT LIVES ...

TIANA ... LISTEN TO ME ...
BELIEVE ME ONE
MORE TIME ...

GOODBYE,
RAVAGE.



Holo-call for you, sir. Shall I let it in?



SURE. I'LL TAKE IT.



FEARMASTER KING! WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HEY, CALM DOWN, RAVAGE. I JUST CALLED TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ETHICAL POLARITY SWING.

JUST SAW THE NEWS ON HOLO. NICE SHOW. WHEN YOU CAN SPARE TIME FROM THE BLOODLETTING, THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU IN MY ORGANIZATION!



LOOK, FEARMASTER, THOSE MURDERS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME! I STRONGLY RESENT YOUR ALLEGATIONS!

YEAH, YEAH, OF COURSE-- I UNDERSTAND. THIS LINE ISN'T SCRAMBLED. WE HAVE TO WATCH WHAT WE SAY. BE IN TOUCH. CIAO!



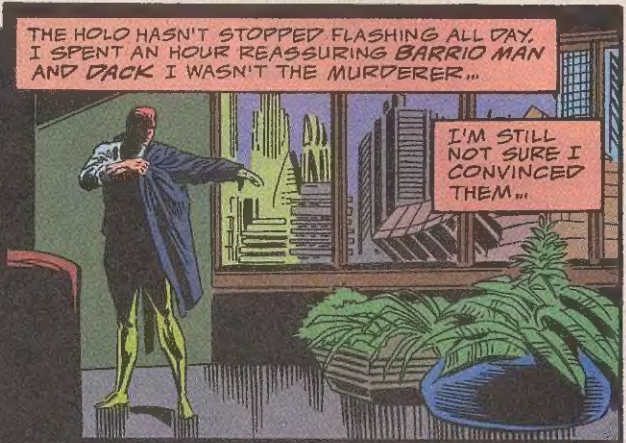
I'LL GIVE YOU "CIAO!" YOU SICK JERK! I'M INNOCENT, I TELL YOU!

WOW! YOU'RE TOO GOOD FOR ME! I WISH I COULD CULTIVATE THAT LOOK OF INDIGNANT SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS!

THEN AGAIN, I CAN'T SPROUT HORNS AND GORE PEOPLE TO DEATH!



ANYWAY, CAN'T CHAT NOW. CATCH YOU LATER... BYE.



THE HOLO HASN'T STOPPED FLASHING ALL DAY. I SPENT AN HOUR REASSURING BARRIO MAN AND DACK I WASN'T THE MURDERER...

I'M STILL NOT SURE I CONVINCED THEM...



BUT THEN HOW CONVINCED WOULD I BE THAT THERE WAS SOME OTHER HORNED, CLAWED, BULLETPROOF BEAST WANDERING AROUND NEW YORK?

MAYBE I'M GOING INSANE... I'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH... PERHAPS THIS IS THE FINAL CHANGE... SPLIT PERSONALITY AND AMNESIA...



NAME?

DR. RUDOLF
MENKEL,
SENIOR
CONSULTANT,
I.F.S.
UNIT.

CURRENT
PASSWORD?

GENESIS
37: V. 20.



AIR BACTERIA
SCREEN; POSITIVE
AIRLOCK--FILTER-
ING NOW.

★ YOU THINK IT'S
HARD GETTING IN
TRY GETTIN' OUT ★



This is my
domain...
here I am
God.

There are some who claim the medical profession exists to heal, to cure, to tenderly nurture.

How naive. We do this work because we ENJOY exercising our power over the sick and helpless.

GOOD
MORNING,
DOCTOR
MENKEL.

G-GOOD
M-MORNING,
SIR.

NO, DOCTOR...
PLEASE...
NO MORE
POISON...

I repeat--This is
our TRUE nature.
It's part of our
Beast birthright
to visit cruelty
upon the weak.

It's precisely for this reason I prefer an antique injection needle to its painless modern alternatives."

"PLEASE"...? IS THAT THE
BEST YOU CAN DO...? COME
NOW, FRANK, SURELY YOU
CAN MANAGE ONE LITTLE
SCREAM FOR YOUR
OLD DOCTOR?

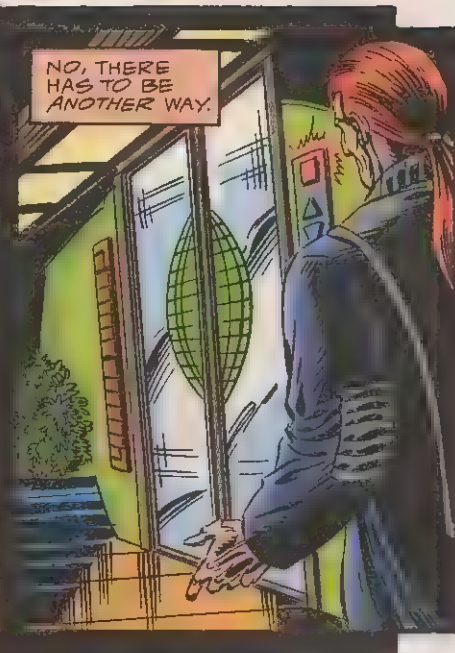
NOT
FOR YOU
IT ISN'T,
FRANK.

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR
TOXIN-INJECTION...



IF THERE IS SOME OTHER BEAST ... I GUESS I SHOULD BE OUT THERE TRACKING MY RIVAL DOWN ... PROVING MY INNOCENCE ...

BUT THAT'S NOT REALISTIC... YOU CAN'T HUNT ONE MAN DOWN IN A CITY OF MILLIONS.



NO, THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY.



PAUL-
PHILIP.

MIRANDA,
DUPLEDGE.

WELL,
HE HAS...

... GREEN
GLOBE DIDN'T
COME OUT OF
THAT VALHALLA
BUSINESS
SMELLING OF
ROSES.

HE LOOKS
LIKE HE'S GOT
ALL THE TROUBLES
IN THE WORLD
ON HIS
SHOULDERS.



WAIT A MINUTE...
THAT COULD BE IT!
I COULD GET HIM
ON A "PASSIVE
NEUROSIS"
RAP!

NICE THOUGHT,
MIRANDA. BUT COULD
YOU REALLY MAKE
IT STICK?

WHO BETTER THAN ME? I'M HIS SISTER.

THIS ISN'T THE TWENTIETH CENTURY WHERE SOMEONE COULD GET AWAY WITH DEPRESSING INNOCENT PEOPLE WITH THEIR BAD MOODS...

...THESE DAYS, YOU GET PENALIZED FOR THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR!

BUT TO MAKE A "PASSIVE NEUROSIS" CHARGE STICK, IT WILL NEED FOUR PEOPLE TO SWEAR THAT HIS BAD MOOD IS CAUSING THEM PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS.

WELL, ALEC, THERE'S YOU AND ME... SO ALL WE'VE GOT TO FIND IS TWO MORE COLLEAGUES...

...AND WE CAN HAVE PAUL-PHILIP COMMITTED TO THE ASYLUM FOR REHABILITATION...

BY THE TIME HE COMES OUT, I'LL BE C.E.O. OF GREEN GLOBE!

I'VE BEEN GOING ABOUT THIS ALL WRONG... EVER SINCE HELLROCK... I'VE BEEN RUNNING FROM DETHSTRYK... FROM AL-CHEMAX... FROM RELATIONSHIPS...

MAYBE EVEN FROM MYSELF...

BUT IF I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM, HOW CAN THE PUBLIC?

WAIT A MINUTE... THAT'S IT!

I DON'T NEED TO HUNT THIS GUY DOWN TO PROVE I'M NOT HIM...

I JUST HAVE TO BE MYSELF... ESTABLISH MY OWN IDENTITY... AND WHAT I BELIEVE IN...

BUT WHAT DO I BELIEVE IN ?

I BELIEVE IN THE PLANET, THE ENVIRONMENT ...

AND I'M AGAINST THE CORRUPT CORPORATIONS THAT ARE DESTROYING IT ...

ESPECIALLY SYNTHIA FOOD CORPORATION...

EIGHTY YEARS AGO, THE MULTINATIONALS WERE BANNED FROM DESTROYING THE RAIN FOREST ...

SO SYNTHIA FARMS THE CLOUDS ABOVE IT ...

SEEDING THE CLOUDS WITH BACTERIA... THE BUGS USE THE WATER IN THE CLOUDS TO MULTIPLY...

THEN THEY'RE HARVESTED AS PROTEIN SLUDGE AND TURNED INTO BURGERS...

TROUBLE IS, IT CUTS OFF THE WATER SUPPLY TO THE TREES-- SO THE RAIN FOREST DIES ANYWAY.

TYPICAL MANKIND, THEY COULDN'T STEAL THE FOREST, SO THEY STOLE THE RAIN.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING,
THEY'RE NOT BREAKING
THE LAW

BUT I'M NOT
SPEAKING
TECHNICALLY...

...AND THEY'RE BREAKING MY LAW.
THE LAW OF THE BEAST

MY TARGET IS ALAIN GRIS, THE
GROUP MANAGER OF SYNTHIA'S
SKY PLANTATIONS... HE MUST
KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING IS
WRONG...

...I'M GOING TO
PERSUADE HIM TO
CHANGE CORPORATE
POLICY, WHETHER
HE LIKES IT OR
NOT.



MICROWAVE BARRAGE--I
CAN SMELL THE HEATED AIR.

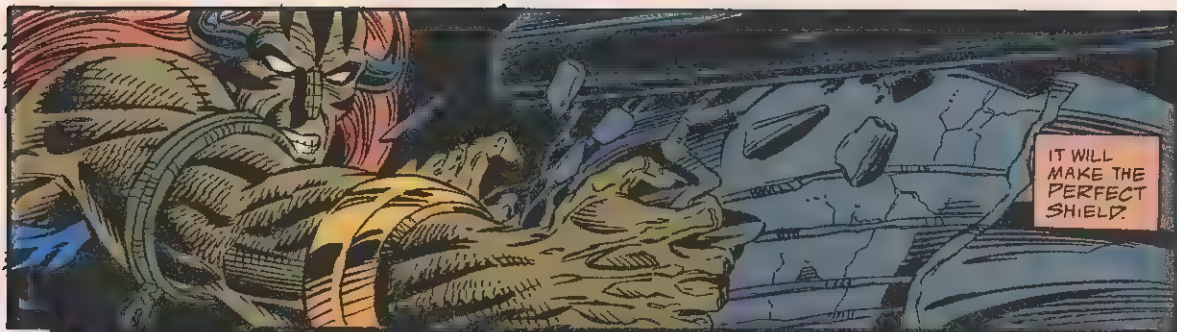
ONE MORE
STEP AND I'D
BE A BURGER.

TINK!

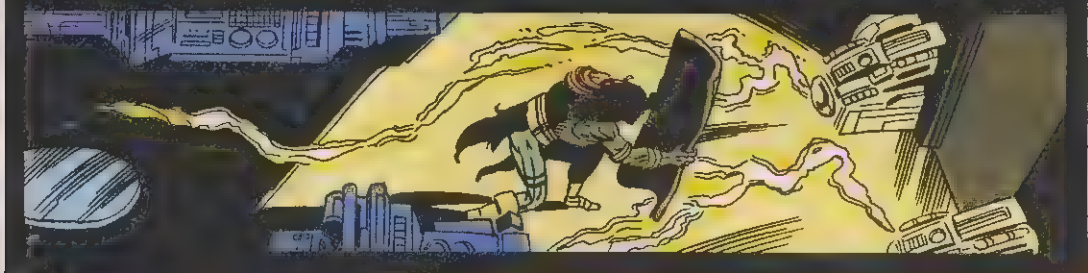
SNFF!

BEHIND THIS WALL--
ALUMINUM FOIL
INSULATION.

SNFF!

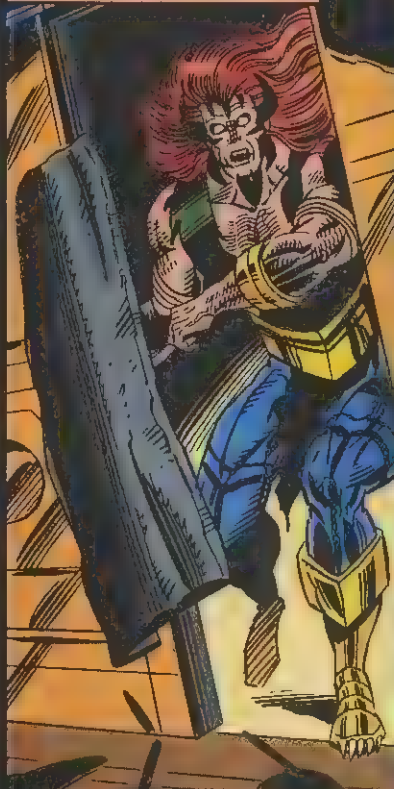


IT WILL
MAKE THE
PERFECT
SHIELD.

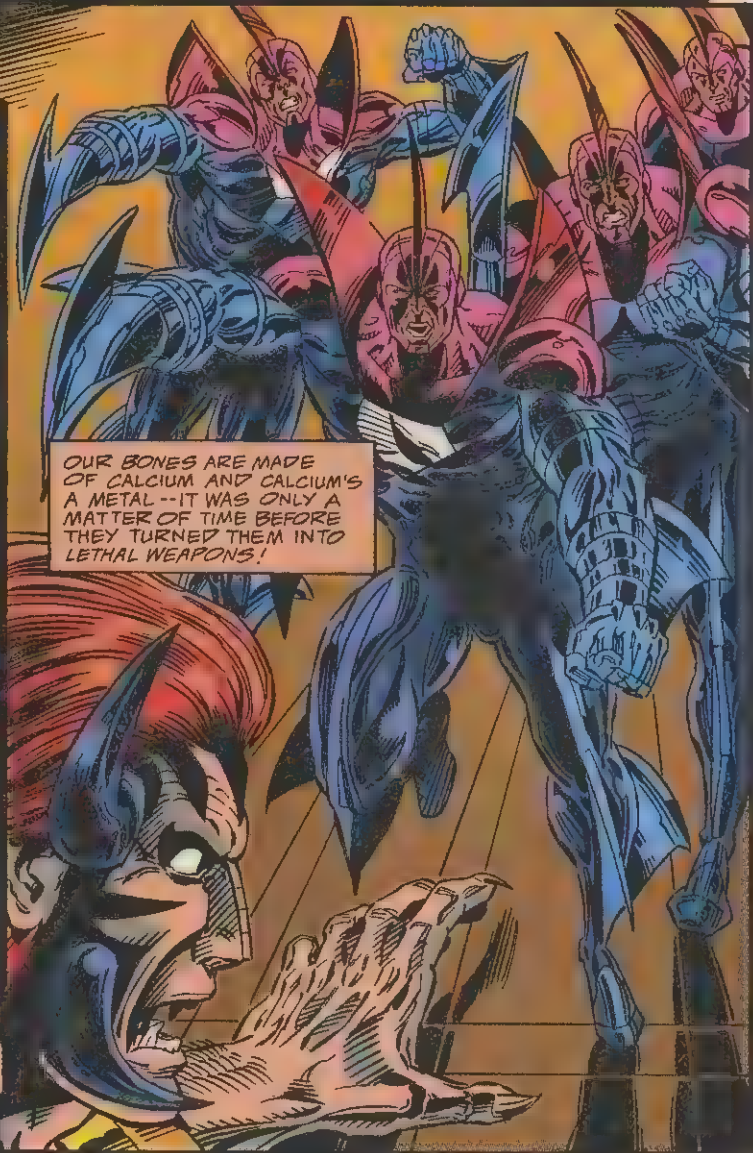


UH OH!

SYN SQUAD! ILLEGAL
GENETICALLY-ALTERED
WARRIORS... WITH CERAMIC
CALCIUM SKELETONS,
EXTENDED AT ELBOW,
KNEE, AND FOOT...



...AND, OF COURSE,
KNIFE HANDS.



OUR BONES ARE MADE
OF CALCIUM AND CALCIUM'S
A METAL--IT WAS ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME BEFORE
THEY TURNED THEM INTO
LETHAL WEAPONS!

SYN TROOPERS WERE ONCE DECEASED... SO POOR AND DESPERATE, THEY PREYED ON THEIR OWN AND WERE REJECTED BY THE BARRIO CULTURE.

THIS GROTESQUE EMPLOYMENT WAS THE ONLY WORK THEY COULD GET.

IF THEY DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY, THEIR STARVING FAMILIES GET A DEATH PENSION...

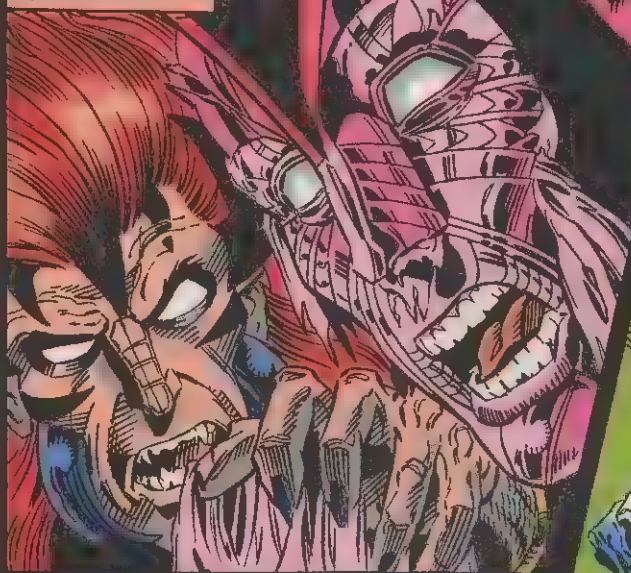
"WHICH TURNS THEM INTO LETHAL KAMIKAZES."

BUT I'M NOT EXACTLY REGULAR FLESH AND BLOOD MYSELF.



SHOCK! MY CLAW'S SNAGGED IN HIS
CARBON-PLASTIC CHAIN-MAIL UNDERSKIN...

"SYN TROOPERS
HAVE THEM
SURGICALLY
INJECTED
BENEATH THEIR
EPIDERMIS.



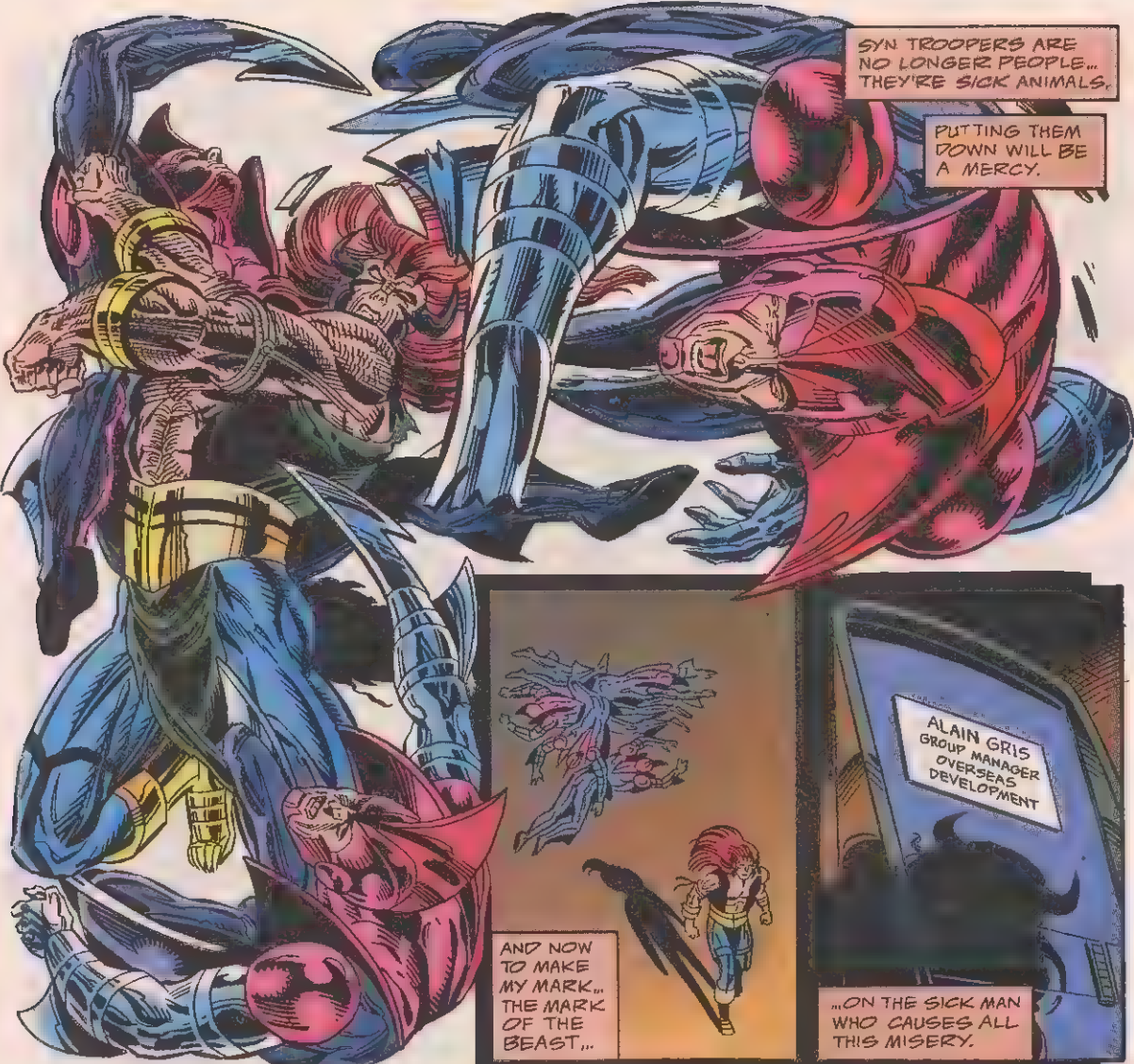
IT DOESN'T JUST
MAKE A FIRST-
RATE ARMOR...

...IT ALSO NUMBS
THEM TO THE PAIN
OF COMBAT.



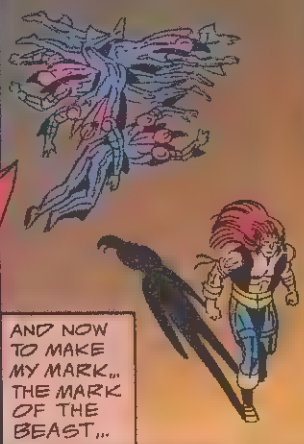
NO TIME TO BE
NICE. THESE
GUYS WANT TO
MINCE ME AND
DON'T CARE IF
THEY DIE IN
THE PROCESS...





SYN TROOPERS ARE NO LONGER PEOPLE... THEY'RE SICK ANIMALS.

PUTTING THEM DOWN WILL BE A MERCY.



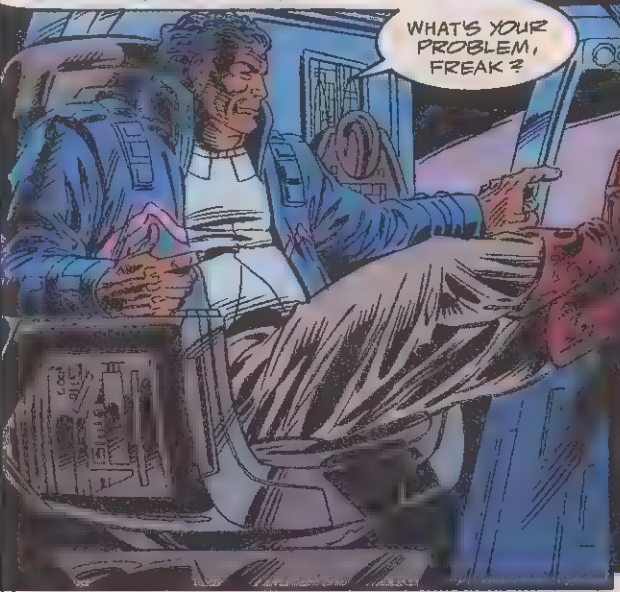
AND NOW TO MAKE MY MARK... THE MARK OF THE BEAST...



ALAIN GRIS
GROUP MANAGER
OVERSEAS
DEVELOPMENT

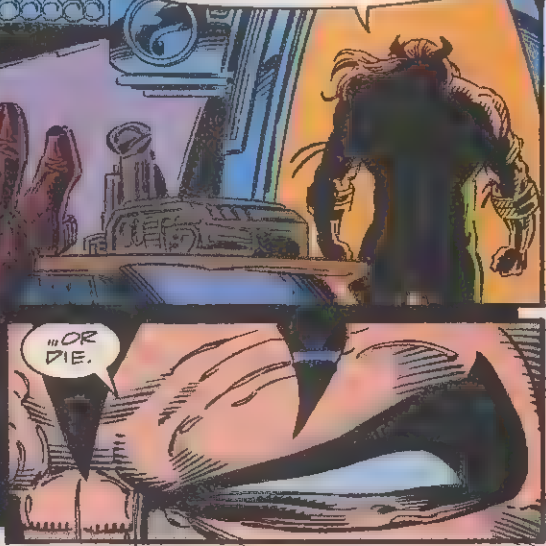
...ON THE SICK MAN WHO CAUSES ALL THIS MISERY.

WELL, WELL--THE BEAST MAN. NEVER THOUGHT I'D RATE A VISIT...



WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, FREAK?

I'VE COME TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, GRIS. STOP FARMING THE CLOUDS OVER THE RAIN FOREST...



OR DIE.

AH, I SEE...NO CAN DO. WE USED TO FARM THE CLOUDS OVER NORTH AMERICA, BUT THE PUBLIC DIDN'T LIKE IT... FEAR OF A MAJOR AIR CRASH... *

...SO WE MOVED IT TO THE RAIN FOREST AND EVERYONE'S HAPPY.

NOT EVERYONE. ANIMALS AND NATIVES ARE DYING OUT THERE.

* PUNISHER 2099 #12. --JOEY

EXACTLY. THEY DON'T HAVE ANY POLITICAL LOBBY. IT'S PERFECT, ISN'T IT ?

NO, IT ISN'T PERFECT-- YOU CHANGE YOUR POLICY OR I CHANGE YOU.

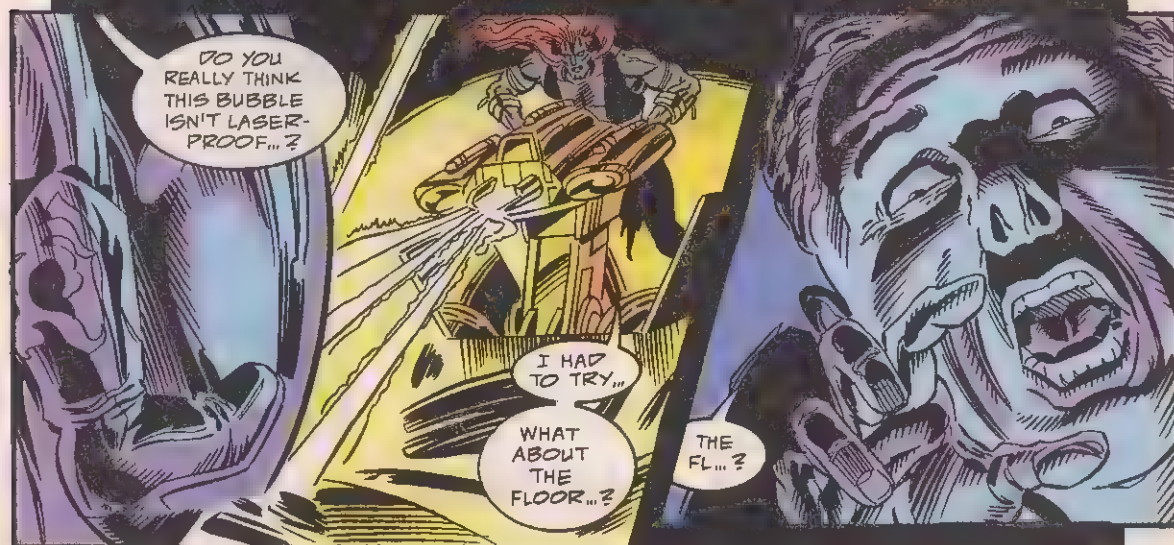
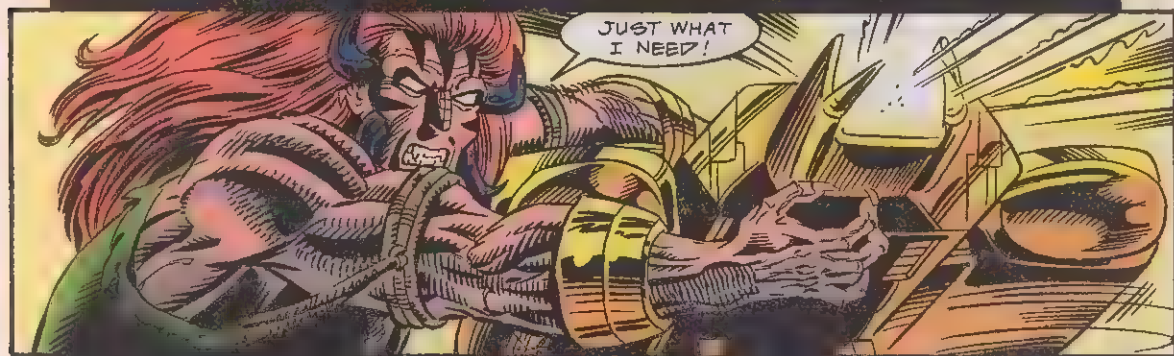
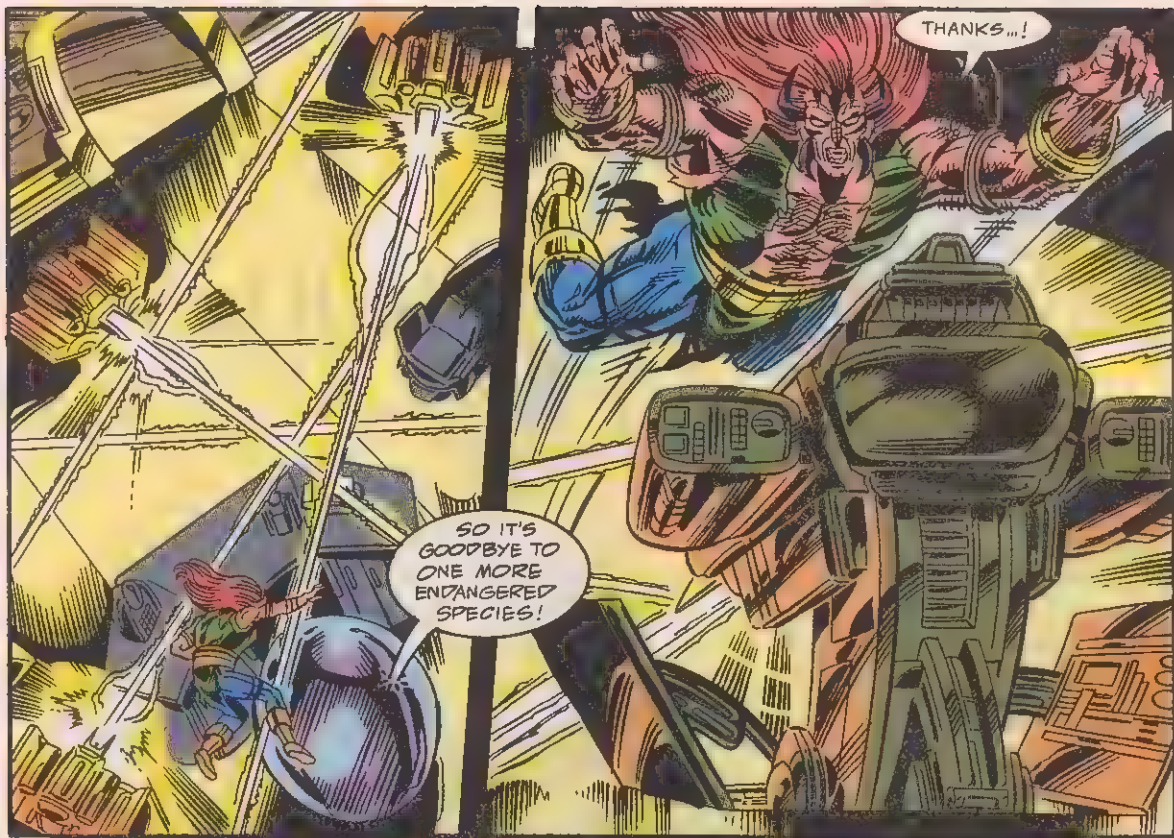
WELL, FORTUNATELY I HEARD THE FRACAS OUTSIDE AND TOOK PRECAUTIONS...

DO YOU LIKE MY WOMB-BUBBLE? THE TOTAL PERSONAL PROTECTION SYSTEM MY COMPANY HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED. I'VE GOT ONE OF THE FIRST.

IT'S ALREADY BEEN EXTENSIVELY FIELD-TESTED, BUT FEEL FREE TO BLUNT YOUR CLAWS ON IT.

TOTALLY FRICTIONLESS POLYMER SHELL...

AND IN THE MEAN-TIME, I'LL OPERATE THESE LASERSON YOU...



WAIT! YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
BELOW HERE...!

I DON'T
CARE! I GAVE
YOU FAIR
WARNING,
GRIS!

SOMEONE
GET HIM OUT
OF THERE!

NO--YOU GET HIM
OUT... THAT STUFF
EATS ANYTHING!

I WONDER WHAT HE
THINKS OF SYNTHIA'S
FARMING METHODS
NOW...?

I'LL KEEP FIGHTING
THESE PEOPLE UNTIL
THEY CHANGE THEIR
POLICY.

NO!
LIVE-
STAGE
BACTERIA!

PLEASE!
IT'S PENE-
TRATING MY
BUBBLE!

UUH... UUUH...
UUUH!

OTHER
PEOPLE
MAY NOT
KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
ME AND THE
PSYCHO-
BEAST...

BUT I KNOW... AND I'VE
MADE MY MARK.

BULLPEN MARVEL COMICS BULLETINS

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Music, it is said, has charms to soothe the Bouncing Beast. Well, it also does a pretty good job on our Marvelous scripters and sketchers.

To initiate our all-new Question of the Month Feature, we thought we'd ask a bunch of Marveloids the following question: "What kind of music do you listen to when you are doing your work?"

Here's what they had to say.

INCREDIBLE HULK inker **Cam Smith** likes to really pump up the volume when he works. Cam said he likes "The Ramones ... or anything loud like that!"

EXCALIBUR editor **Suzanne Gaffney** has musical tastes as diverse as the Knights of the Round Table. Suzanne goes for everything from Queen Latifah's "Nature of Sista" to k.d. lang's "Ingenue."

Bullpenner Steve Bunche targets "King Missile or Gwar." Another Gwar fan is **BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD** writer **Mike Lackey**, who also flips for "Frank Zappa or the Ramones" but the music Mike plays most frequently is the mo' better jazz of Miles Davis!

New **X-FORCE** penciler **Tony Daniel** prefers the Fab Force. As Tony put it, "I've always listened to the Beatles, ever since I was a kid.

Unless I'm in a hurry to meet a deadline. If I really need to get pumped up, then I tune in to a local jazz station and it really gets my pulse pounding!"

PINHEAD editor (no insult intended) **Tom Daning** said it was easy to pin down his answer. Tom listens to no music when he works! Tom said, sternly: "I listen to Howard Stern and nothing else!"

TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION 2 artist **Manny Galan** — whose drawing table can transform into a turntable — listens to music for inspiration. His

choices are "the Smiths and the Cure." (Everybody make sure you listen to what the Manny said!) **TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION 2** back-up artist **Derek Yaniger**, who is not a robot in disguise — goes for "really grungy, heavy, hard-core stuff — Gwar, Nirvana. I like my music beefy and extra-meaty!"

Assistant editor **James Felder** tries to keep up with the times. Pontificated the Prof, "I like to listen to some of the hep, swingin' rock and roll the kids are into these days. I really dig that crazy new sound!"

BARBIE FASHION artist **Barb Rausch**, like Tom Daning, works in a music-free zone. Said Barb, "I watch trash TV, and reruns, and cartoons — I'm enjoying *Animaniacs* right now!"

BARBIE inker **Mario Capaldi** said "My favorite music is opera, being as I'm Italian. But I really like anything, as long as it's good. I like songs that prove to stand the test of time ... songs by people like Simon & Garfunkle, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and the Eagles."

Staff colorist **Paul Becton** said that when he starts slapping down some hues, he likes to groove to the sounds of "big band jazz."

UNCANNY X-MEN inker **Dan Green** is quite an uncanny musician himself — he plays the electric guitar, electric bass, and blues harmonica! For his listening pleasure, Dan prefers "chamber music — string quartet or piano. Bach's Goldberg variation." Dan used to play professionally, but now finds "it's a lot nicer working at home than working in bars!"

Paste-up guy **Peter Cooper** (or, "Paste-Up Pete," as he's known in these parts) is partial to "any of the Seattle Invasion people — Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, Temple of the Dog. I listen to a lot of different things, but mostly rock and roll."

Finally, no page on music would be complete without a word from rock 'n' roll editor **Mort Todd**, who said, "I listen to Japanese horror movie soundtracks, especially Ghidrah the Three-Headed Monster. Also, since I'm the rock editor, I like to hear soundtracks of Godzilla throwing rocks at stuff!"

Till next time, keep on rockin' in the free world!

THE BULL'S EYE by RICK PARKER



HYPE BOX

You remember last year's **THE TRIAL OF VENOM** benefit comic Marvel did to raise funds for the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse? Sure you do. Well, this year we've tapped Peter David and Jim Craig to produce another sensational one-shot for the NCPCA. This one entitled **THE HULK VS. VENOM!** Available by mail order only, the 32 page

special will feature an original story pitting these two ill-tempered titans against one another for the first time, packaged in a gorgeous metallic foil cover, and sent first class in a plastic backing envelope! Three dollars of the five dollar cover price will go straight to the NCPCA. Look for a coupon in your favorite Marvel mag or at a retail store near you and help a worthy cause while investing in one heckuva comic book!


NOW ON SALE

- **ALPHA FLIGHT #130:** Double-sized final issue! The flight ends here! By Furman/Carrasco/Patterson!
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #387:** The Vulture is young ... and Spidey is old! By Michelinie/Bagley/Emberlin!
- **BARBIE #39:** Barbie is lost in space! By Trusiani/Rausch!
- **BRATS BIZARRE #4 OF 4:** Will they be cured kids — or post mortem punks? By Mills-Skinner/Mighty!
- **CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE MEDUSA EFFECT:** 64 page Cap and Bucky epic set in World War 2! By Thomas/Buckler-Wyman!
- **CURSE OF THE WEIRD #4 OF 4:** It's monstrous! By Everett, Ditko, et al.

- **GHOST RIDER #47:** Vengeance takes to the streets as the new Ghost Rider! By Mackie/Gamey/Ivy!
- **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #46:** Will we ever see Major Victory again? By Gallagher/West/Montano!
- **HARROWERS #4:** They'd walk a Nile to save Cleopatra's soul! By Smith/Colan/Garzon!
- **HYPERKIND #7:** A clue lies in a nursery rhyme — and it ain't Humpty Dumpty! By Burke/Collins/Petrecca!
- **MARVEL X-MEN COLLECTION BY JIM LEE #3 OF 3:** Reprinting the X-cellent trading cards!
- **NIGHT THRASHER #8:** Secrets of Bandit revealed — and no, he's not Burt Reynolds! By Nicieza/Boller!
- **NOVA #3:** With Spider-Man and

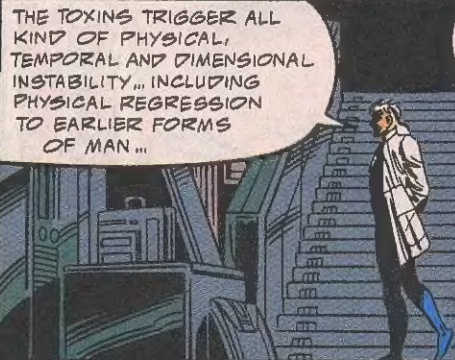
- the all-new Computer! By Nicieza/Marinan/Stegbauer!
- **PUNISHER WAR ZONE #25:** Frank's in jail — or is he? By Hama/Buscema/Mayerick!
- **QUASAR #58:** Do you dare enter ... the New Universe?
- **RAVAGE 2099 #18:** Ravage is gonna clean up the future! By Mills-Skinner/Mehm/Williams!
- **SECRET DEFENDERS #13:** The new leader of the Secret Defenders is ... Thanos! By Marz/Grindberg/Hudson!
- **THE SHROUD #1 OF 4:** Spidey guest stars in a battle with the Scorpion! By Bar/Wyman/Jones III!
- **SILVER SABLE #22:** The taking of Beverly Hills — and we don't mean the Hillbillies! By Wright/Butler/Eklund!

- **SLEEPWALKER #33:** Final issue! The big sleep ends here! By Budiansky/Krantz/Lomax!
- **WOLVERINE #79:** Now 100% adamantium-free! By Hama/Kubert/Farmer!
- **WONDER MAN #30:** Wondy hates the Hate Monger! By Jones/Randall/Joyce!
- **X-Factor #100:** Double sized action as an X-Factorite X-pires! By DeMatteis/Duursema/Milgrom!
- **X-MEN ADVENTURES SECOND SEASON #2:** You get Morph for your money! By Macchio/Wildman/Albrecht!
- And be sure to look for the coupon to the **HULK VS. VENOM** custom comic benefiting the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse!

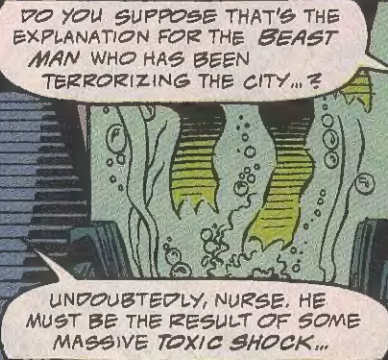


LOOK, NURSE... MORE FACES ARE APPEARING ON FRANK... THIS BEARS OUT MY PREMISE... THAT "I.F.S." -- IDENTITY FRAGMENTATION SYNDROME -- IS CAUSED BY TOXICITY IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

BUT HOW CAN POISONS CAUSE SUCH RADICAL PHYSICAL PHENOMENA?




THE TOXINS TRIGGER ALL KIND OF PHYSICAL, TEMPORAL AND DIMENSIONAL INSTABILITY... INCLUDING PHYSICAL REGRESSION TO EARLIER FORMS OF MAN...



DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT'S THE EXPLANATION FOR THE BEAST MAN WHO HAS BEEN TERRORIZING THE CITY...?

UNDOUBTEDLY, NURSE. HE MUST BE THE RESULT OF SOME MASSIVE TOXIC SHOCK...




...AS, INDEED, SO WAS I...

...ONLY I LACK HIS OBVIOUS MORAL SCRUPLES.

HIS RESTRAINT IS A LATTER-DAY AFFECTATION, A COWARDLY COMPROMISE WHICH SULLIES THE NOBILITY OF THE PURE HUMAN ANIMAL...



I AM THAT TRUE BEAST...



THIS FOOL IS LIVING
A LIE... AND I SHALL PUSH
THE LIE DOWN HIS THROAT
UNTIL HE CHOKES ON
IT... OR CALLS ME
BROTHER...

...SO
SWEARS
**THROW-
BACK!**

NEXT **BLOOD BROTHERS**

RANTS & RAVE

JOEY CAVALIERI — EDITOR
MATTHEW MORRA — ASSISTANT EDITOR

c/o MARVEL COMICS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016
ALL LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, ALTHOUGH WE WILL GLADLY WITHHOLD THAT INFO UPON REQUEST.

Out Of My Head

"The modern day composer refuses to die." Frank Zappa took this quote from his boyhood idol, Edgard Varese, as his own personal motto. He continued to compose throughout his long illness, and remained as outspoken as he was from the start. For someone whose work was judged to have "no commercial potential," his career spanned four decades.

If you're wondering why a functionary at a large entertainment concern like myself would find him interesting...then you probably have listened to Zappa.

Dear RAVAGE 2099 crew,

Heck, people, I can't stand it anymore. I mean, I have read through every issue of RAVAGE 2099 and I had to write in.

I am 23 years old, a graduate of Campbell University and a comic reader for the past several years. This is my first letter to a comic publisher. I find comics to be a most wonderful medium. Where else do creative people listen to the folks who buy their stuff and actually do something to meet their expectations? Marvel has, over the years, developed a refined method ensuring consistency of quality in stories, art and being on time. Considering your wide range of mags, it's quite a mind-boggling achievement, to say the least. I enjoy your titles, even the patriotic ones like CAPTAIN AMERICA (as you can see, I'm Asian not American).

When I came across RAVAGE 2099, I was overwhelmed with joy that it was by The Man himself, Stan Lee, and co-created with Paul Ryan, who deserves as many accolades as any of his contemporaries. After reading the first six issues of RAVAGE 2099, I was excited about the potential direction of the mag and the 2099 universe in general. I envisioned many different possibilities for Ravege's powers. So can you imagine my disappointment when Stan decided to stop writing RAVAGE 2099?

Don't get me wrong, I have a great deal of respect for Pat, Tony, Grant, Keith and the rest of the crew. In fact, Pat and Tony's work on PUNISHER 2099 is positively intoxicating. But I feel that Ravege has become alien to me. His personality, his rage, the pace of the book etc. While I salute the new team's courage in taking over from Stan, I can't

help but wish they kept it the same.

Anyway, enough of my ranting and raving. I'd like to wish the crew all the best. I plan on sticking around. And Stan, I can't wait to see your next creation. I'll be waiting.

Chow Man Wah
Kuala Lumpur, West Malaysia

We loved Stan's writing too, Chow, but since every writer's different, there's no way Ravege could ever be the same. Besides, here in the 2099 universe, if there's one thing we can't stand, it's complacency. We hate to stand still (and with this much caffeine in us, it's pretty darn impossible to stand still!) We always strive to be new and different! In fact, over the next two issues, you'll see some changes in the art style. The next two issues'll be kind of a transitional phase as Grant tries out some new tricks, so let us know what you think of RAVAGE 2099 #18!

Dear RAVAGE crew,

Compliments on a superb job with issue #13. I like getting rid of Henton.

When will we see more of Hellrock?

Will Dack return with super powers?

Now that I know of Miranda's hate for Ravege, will she become a villainess?

Will Avatar, Dethstryk or Dragonclaw ever team up with each other?

Are you ever going to make a Fantastic Four 2099?

Any new villains on the way?

Matt Kilbane
168 Bridge Creek Dr.
Goose Creek, SC 29445

We're eager to show you plenty more of Hellrock, but that's all we can say for now on that score, Matt. This month, we're introducing plenty of new villains in every title. Scope out the checklist below and see for yourself!

Yo Joe,

WOW! That's the only word that pretty much covers it. This is the first time I've written to you guys, and I think I've waited far too long.

I was skimming through (okay, I was being amazed again) my back issues when something caught my eye, the Fantasticar! Yes, the FF's old (and current depending on your time period) machine was back for a brief three issue stint (issues #6-#8). Very clever.

You guys deserve a big pat on the

back! This is a great comic. On behalf of all the readers out there, a big thanks to everyone on the crew (including Stan Lee and Paul Ryan). Oh well, at least you found very suitable replacements with Pat, Tony and Grant, so we weren't too disappointed.

Dack, Dack, Dack! We miss Dack. He was the most likable juvenile delinquent I've ever seen in a comic. Are Dack and Tiana coming back any time soon? Are there any plans to bring the Fantastar back?

Any plans to kill off Ravege's sister? Please say yes. I'm sick of her incessant whining about how she should be the head of Green Globa. Gee, any secret agenda there?

Jack Brackney
685 Erhart North Rd.
Valley City, Ohio 44280

Tiana's already been back, Jack, so tell us what you thought. And you can count on Ravege's sister, Miranda, having a secret agenda.

It's NEW VILLAIN MONTH in MARVEL 2099

Spider-Man 2099 #17 Sure, the crossover was called "Fall of the Hammer," but where did Thor's hammer fall? It fell to Bloodhammer, and you'll meet him this ish!

Doom 2099 #15 You lucky, lucky people get to witness "The Coming of Radian!" Also, this marks the first appearance of Feng Huang! Let's just say...you'll remember her!

Punisher 2099 #14 You asked for new villains from Pat and Tony...and boy, will you be glad you asked! This one's so wild, we're keepin' mum! Maybe we'll tell ya about it later...

X-Men 2099 #8 You also asked us for a supervillain team that could top the Ratpack...and John and Ron give it to you with...the Freakshow! Plus, the team breaks up!

NEXT ISSUE

New villain month doesn't stop with the above! Next, we introduce a villain so sinister, and with such a bizarre origin, that he has only this designation for now...X-11! Plus, Ravege goes claw to claw with the Throwback! Two villains, but we don't charge a cent extra! We must be nuts!